

Shevardnadze in Bonn

BONN (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived Friday in Bonn amid cautious praise from West German leaders over a Kremlin proposal to unilaterally cut its tactical nuclear arsenal. The visit comes one day after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced new arms reduction proposals during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Moscow (see story below). Shevardnadze arrived at Cologne-Bonn airport and went directly to the federal chancellery's office in Bonn for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. He was greeted by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who said he believed the visit "comes at an important time." "I think that it will deepen not only our bilateral relations, but also improve East-West relations," Genscher said. Kohl welcomed the Soviet proposals earlier Friday but also urged the Soviet Union to take further steps to eliminate its superiority in conventional and nuclear forces. "This proposal is certainly a step in the right direction," Kohl said in a statement.

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Israel seeks \$3 billion from U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel on Friday made its annual request for \$3 billion in aid to the United States and U.S. Ambassador William Brown said he felt sure it would be granted without political conditions. Finance Minister Shimon Peres asked for the aid — the amount unchanged for the fourth successive year — at a meeting with Brown. Israel receives by far the largest slice of U.S. foreign aid. Brown said he did not think the Bush administration or congress would use aid as a lever to force Israeli "concessions" in response to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He also said the request would probably be approved despite efforts to cut the giant U.S. budget deficit. "The basic, fundamental sentiment... remains of staunch, unwavering support for Israel and an appreciation of its security needs," Brown told Israel Radio. Peres expressed confidence the request would be granted and said a peace settlement might some day reduce the need for aid.

King: U.S. serious in peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches
AMMAN — The administration of U.S. President George Bush is serious in its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, His Majesty King Hussein was quoted as saying Saturday.

In remarks published by the French weekly Le Figaro, excerpts of which were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the King said all indications were that both the United States and the Soviet Union were willing to cooperate and launch joint diplomatic moves towards finding peaceful settlements to current international conflicts.

The King welcomed the recent meeting between French President Francois Mitterrand and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat as an effective and positive contribution to Middle East peace efforts. The King said peace in the region could not be achieved if the rights of the Palestinians were ignored.

The King, underlining that the

Palestinian problem was the crux of the Middle East conflict, reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The King emphasised the need for to initiate dialogue among the various factions in Lebanon to work out a durable settlement that guarantees the unity and sovereignty of the country. Expressing regret over the continuing violence in Lebanon, the King said it was an Arab responsibility to find an end to the strife there.

The King's comments on superpower role in Middle East peace efforts followed talks in Moscow this week between U.S.

Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on regional conflicts, including the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Union proposed that the superpowers meet Israel and the PLO in four-party talks on the Middle East.

Shevardnadze made the suggestion Wednesday during the opening day of talks with Baker, Gerasimov said.

He said the idea was not intended to supplant a long-standing Soviet call for a United Nations-organised international peace conference on the Middle East, but was made as an additional suggestion.

"If Israel and the PLO could get together at the negotiating table this would be the most important step," Gerasimov told a news conference.

"Why not try to organise a meeting of Israel, representatives of the PLO and representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States for four-sided talks?"



HM King Hussein

Neither Gerasimov nor U.S. officials reported Baker's response, although Gerasimov said the Americans reaffirmed their position that the time was not right for an international Middle East peace conference.

A U.S. official said Shevardnadze had agreed that an Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was "worthy of attention," but he said a number of points remained unclear.

Officials said they had reiterated the U.S. view that Moscow should take steps including restoring full diplomatic relations with Israel to "earn the right" to an active role in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 2)

Arab envoys seek firm Beirut truce

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Arab League envoys shuttled across the dividing green line Friday, trying to mediate rival demands over where the Arab military observers to monitor a ceasefire should be deployed.

The truce, the fifth in over two months of fighting, held with minor shelling fired from positions in West Beirut falling onto the coast of the Christian enclave north of the city.

Two Israeli jets panicked tense Lebanese by breaking the sound barrier over Beirut, playing on fears of fresh artillery bombardments after a day-old ceasefire.

There was general relief when radio news bulletins assured listeners that the ceasefire, brokered by the Arab mediation team, was still in place.

Lebanon's warring factions agreed Thursday to halt their artillery duels which have killed over 350 people in the past two months.

But many Beirut residents, still numbering over a million after a mass exodus to escape the worst artillery battles in 14 years of civil war, remained sceptical of how long the truce would last.

Shops were filled with people stocking up on supplies. Banks opened and street vendors were busy selling fruit and vegetables. But many families also worked to fill sandbags and stack up slabs of concrete to protect homes and businesses.

The Arab League team, headed by league Assistant Secretary-General Lakhdar Brahimi, met militia chieftain Nabih

Berri as part of its shuttle diplomacy to make the truce permanent.

"We discussed ways to enforce the ceasefire and lasting solutions to the Lebanese crisis so as to avoid the recurrence of problems," Ibrahim said after the meeting.

Ibrahim said his talks aim at "stabilising the security situation to allow the Arab committee to deal with Lebanon's political problems."

He would not answer reporters' questions.

Sources in the cabinet of acting Premier Salim Al Hoss, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Arab envoys were discussing conflicting demands about the deployment of the Arab observer

force organised by the league.

There are "two main deployment plans, one proposed by Syria and the other by (Hoss rival and military commander Michel) Aoun," said one source. "They are concentrating their talks on a compromise plan accepted by all the parties."

The plan, according to the source, calls for deploying the observers at ports in the Christian enclave to try to prevent ships carrying weapons and ammunition from re-supplying Aoun's forces.

Aoun, in a counter-proposal, called for their deployment along Lebanon's extensive border with Syria and at Beirut airport in the city's western sector, according to the source.

Israelis kill Gazan, flex muscles in Golan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian protesting at an earlier army killing and wounded 10 people in the occupied territories Friday, residents said.

In the occupied Golan Heights, hundreds of soldiers and police patrolled villages in a rare show of strength to stem demonstrations.

Gaza City residents said soldiers killed Mahmoud Al Akra, 24, and wounded two of his friends when they broke a curfew to stone troops in protest at the killing of a Palestinian teenager by the army Thursday night.

"Tomorrow there will probably be a protest over Al Akra's death then someone else will be killed and so on, and so on. It's a never-ending cycle," one Gazan told Reuters.

The strip's 650,000 residents spent their fourth consecutive day under a curfew imposed to fore-

stall violence during an Israeli holiday period.

Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip, troops shot and wounded at least four demonstrators and fired tear-gas at residents of Jabalya refugee camp who ignored the curfew and marched to Friday prayers, witnesses said.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, a 17-year-old Palestinian stone-thrower was said by hospital officials to be critically ill after troops shot him in the abdomen.

Sources said an Arab youth was wounded in the leg during the Ramallah clash, another was shot in Hermon and one in the village of Shuweika.

On the Golan Heights hundreds of troops, police and paramilitary border police patrolled four Arab villages to stop residents joining in protests.

Witnesses in Majdal Shams said the patrols kept the villagers

in their homes. But the villagers shouted anti-Israel slogans from their rooftops as members of the Syrian Children's Movement called from across the frontier for them to demonstrate.

One villager was arrested for watching the Syrian rally from his home through binoculars, neighbours said.

Jewish settlers in Hebron set fire to an Arab-owned car and scuffled with a Palestinian cameraman who tried to film the incident, journalists in the area said.

Settler clashes with Palestinians have risen sharply in recent weeks.

Israel Radio said an Israeli motorist was slightly injured Friday when his vehicle was attacked by Palestinians.

Gaza lawyer Khaled Al Kidra has protested to Israeli military authorities about their trying alleged protesters during the cur-

few when their attorneys cannot travel to court, the Palestinian daily Al Nahar reported.

A Muslim fundamentalist group has called on Palestinians to stage general strikes and confront Israeli forces next week.

The Islamic Jihad in Palestine in a statement distributed in Beirut declared that Monday should be "a day of confrontation and general escalation to assert to the enemy our determination to uproot it and its state."

It said the protests were to coincide with the 41st anniversary of the Jewish state.

The group also urged Palestinians to stage a general strike next Wednesday and attack and drive out Israeli army patrols.

Islamic Jihad in Palestine called for another general strike in the territories Sunday to mourn the deaths of five Palestinians April 13 during an army raid on the West Bank village of Nahalin.

OAU chief in Dakar on mediation mission

DAKAR (R) — The head of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) shuttled Friday between Mauritania and Senegal to mediate a dispute behind ethnic riots that killed hundreds of people last month.

General Moussa Traore of Mali flew into the Senegalese capital Dakar early in the afternoon after brief talks in Mauritania with President Mohammad Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmad Taya.

"We agreed that such a situation should never happen again," Traore told reporters after a one-hour meeting in Nouakchott with Colonel Taya.

Diplomats in West Africa speculated that Traore would try to arrange an early meeting between the leaders of the two states on neutral ground.

In Dakar, Traore was expected to hold talks with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf focusing on Senegal's request for an OAU commission of inquiry into the dispute.

Senegal was also expected to ask Traore's help with the early repatriation of some 71 Senegalese seriously wounded in the riots whom Senegal says are still in Mauritania.

The riots spread as decades of simmering racial tension surfaced between black Senegalese and mostly light-skinned Moors, dominant in Mauritania.

Previous mediation attempts by French and West African envoys have failed to defuse the tension. Each government has accused the other of expelling its own nationals since the rioting began. Mauritania has demanded compensation for Mauritanian property seized in Senegal.

The two governments have blamed each other for the rioting, sparked by a minor border incident April 9.

Bush proposes 'open skies'...

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush proposed Friday an "open skies" policy with the Soviet Union, under which each country would be permitted to overfly the other's territory and monitor military activities.

In a major speech outlining his goal to "welcome the Soviet Union back into the world order," the president also said he would be willing to ease a 17-year-old law, called the Jackson-Vanik Measure, that ties trade with the Soviet Union to emigration policy.

"The United States now has as its goal much more than simply containing Soviet expansionism — we seek the integration of the Soviet Union into the community of nations," the president said in a speech announcing his administration's policy principles for U.S.-Soviet relations.

In his first major speech on east-west relations as president, Bush also called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to explicitly renounce the Brezhnev Doctrine under which Moscow claims the right to intervene in the internal

affairs of its East European allies.

Bush said he was impressed by the political and economic reforms pursued by Gorbachev.

"Mr. Gorbachev, don't stop now," he declared.

Bush, who has been accused by Moscow of foot-dragging by delaying on arms reductions talks while awaiting the results of an internal policy review, declared it was time for "a new (U.S.) policy for the 1990s — one that recognises the full scope of change taking place around the world, and in the Soviet Union itself."

Bush made it clear he was not yet convinced that the changes wrought by Gorbachev were permanent and he pledged to maintain American vigilance.

"Let no one doubt our sincere desire to see perestroika continue and succeed," he said using the Russian word for Gorbachev's programme of restructuring.

"But the national security of America and our allies is not predicated on hope. It must be based on deeds. We look for enduring, ingrained economic and political change," he added.

Bush made no mention of Gor-

bachev's recent arms reduction proposals including Thursday's pledge to unilaterally cut 500 short-range nuclear arms from the Warsaw Pact's 10,000-weapon arsenal or his announcement at the United Nations last December that he would trim Moscow's armed forces by 500,000.

He also made no reference to an internal NATO row over the wisdom of talks with Moscow on reducing short-range nuclear weapons. Bush opposes such talks, but most of the alliance is backing a West German call for early talks.

Bush offered a list of challenges he said Moscow must meet.

He said the Warsaw Pact reduce its conventional military forces, which now outnumber NATO's by better than two to one.

He said the Kremlin must adhere to its World War II pledge to respect self-determination in Eastern and Central Europe.

"In short, tear down the iron curtain," Bush said.

...as NATO welcomes Soviet move

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Friday welcomed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to unilaterally cut 500 short-range nuclear weapons and called on Moscow not to stop there.

"We consider reduction in 500 weapons alone as a welcome, positive, but rather modest step," NATO said in a statement after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker discussed his two-day trip to Moscow with senior officials of the 15 other NATO nations.

NATO has already removed 2,400 nuclear arms in the past decade, the statement said.

"Our levels are much lower than those of the Soviet Union," it said, adding that NATO looks to Moscow to make further "reductions in its unwarranted superiority."

NATO estimates the Soviet Union has 1,450 short-range nuclear missile launchers in Europe, compared to 88 for the Western alliance.

Prior to his talks here Friday, Baker called on the Soviet Union to make more unilateral cuts in short-range nuclear forces (SNF) beyond those announced Thursday.

Asked if he was reconsidering U.S. opposition to the talks, Baker said: "Maybe it's time for more unilateral reductions on the part of the Soviet Union. That would be welcome."

He said Thursday night Gorbachev's gesture was not enough to draw Washington into talks urged by West Germany and other allies on cutting NATO and Warsaw Pact short-range forces.

Baker rejected a reporter's suggestion that Gorbachev had "sandbagged" him — an American term for being thrown off guard and deliberately placed in an awkward position.

"We've been suggesting unilateral reduction for some time," Baker said Gorbachev's gesture was "apparently designed for public opinion" in Europe.

He discussed with the allies a

new challenge by Gorbachev to also cut conventional weapons, such as tanks, troops and aircraft in Europe.

The NATO meeting was attended by seven foreign ministers, including Baker and West Germany's Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and senior officials of the 16 NATO nations.

The Soviet offer to cut 500 short-range nuclear weapons comes at a time when NATO is divided over whether to modernise its 88 Lance missiles, which are based in West Germany. The issue is expected to dominate a May 29-30 NATO summit.

After meeting the other ministers, Baker held private talks with Genscher.

Asked if the two would try to solve their dispute and "bury the hatchet," Baker replied: "There is no hatchet."

Short-range or tactical nuclear weapons are those which travel up to 500 kilometres and include missile launchers and artillery pieces.

U.S. troops head for Panama

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. troop reinforcements began leaving for Panama Friday as part of President George Bush's declared efforts to protect U.S. citizens there and work for the ouster of de facto leader Manuel Antonio Noriega.

A Pentagon spokesman, Jim Kudla, said army troops and marines from California and North Carolina were at air bases awaiting departure.

Bush, reacting to post-election violence in Panama, announced the deployment Thursday of almost 1,900 troops to augment the 10,000 American service personnel stationed at U.S. bases in

the Central American country.

The president also said he was ready to explore ways to entice Noriega to step down.

Diplomatic moves included a meeting Friday in Washington of the Organisation of American States (OAS) to consider Venezuela's proposal for OAS foreign ministers to discuss the Panama situation next Tuesday, diplomatic sources said.

"I will do what is necessary to protect the lives of American citizens and we will not be intimidated by the bullying tactics, brutal though they may be, of the dictator, Noriega," Bush said.

Bush's national security adviser

described the troop deployment as precautionary and said Noriega was unlikely to provoke a confrontation.

"He is a thug but he clearly operates with some prudence when he has to," Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, said. "We can always hope he will see the error of his ways, and we are looking at ways to help convince him to recognise the will of the Panamanian people."

Washington has been applying economic and political pressure against Noriega since he was indicted on federal drug-trafficking charges in February 1988.

The United States, Panama's

opposition and some Latin American governments accuse Noriega of stealing Sunday's election from his rivals, who were attacked and beaten at a post-election rally Wednesday. Panama has since nullified the election results.

Military experts said the makeup of the force en route to Panama was ideally suited to defend the more than 40,000 military dependents and U.S. civilians who live there, and to intervene in any internal strife.

The United States already has nearly 11,000 troops stationed in Panama. Bush said Thursday that the additional troops would support the existing forces.



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WHO assembly votes against PLO admission

GENEVA (AP) — The annual assembly of the World Health Organisation (WHO), after hearing a dramatic appeal by the WHO chief executive "not to jeopardise" the agency's future, Friday voted against immediate admission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the 167th WHO member state.

In a secret ballot, unsuccessfully opposed by Arab states, the meeting voted 80-49 against considering a Nicaraguan proposal designed to replace a compromise draft that would defer a decision on the PLO bid until next year.

There were 19 abstentions.

The United States, which funds one fourth of the WHO's regular budget, has threatened to cease its financial support if the PLO, which now has non-voting observer status, is admitted as full member.

Washington and its Western allies hold that the "State of Palestine," proclaimed last November by the PLO legislative

body, does not fulfill internationally accepted criteria of statehood, including control of a defined territory. U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker warned that admission would harm the Middle East peace process and the entire U.N. system.

After throwing out the Nicaraguan proposal the assembly proceeded to vote on the compromise text, submitted by nine Western and Third World countries which would combine deferral with a call for more aid to residents of the Israeli-occupied territories.

Arab delegations, joined by Cuba and Nicaragua, had argued that the compromise proposal had no relationship with the application and called for an immediate vote.

Nicaragua then submitted what it termed its "amendments" to the compromise proposal which would make it tantamount to an Arab draft resolution calling on the assembly to admit the State of

Palestine.

After a half-hour suspension requested by Britain, the procedural debate continued with Arab speakers urging an immediate roll-call vote on the "amendments."

They challenged the opinion of the assembly's French legal counsel, Claude Vignes, who said the amendments were virtually identical with the Arab draft, and might therefore not be receivable. At times, the assembly was trapped in procedural imbrolio with Cuba voting for the closure of the debate and Libya against.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima, who has in vain urged the PLO to put off its application, called on the assembly earlier "not to jeopardise the future of our organisation" and agreed to the compromise based on his own proposals.

"That future is in your hands," he told the more than 1,000 delegates. His statement drew a sharp protest from Libya.



A boy carries his sister and walks alongside the wreckage of a car hit by an artillery shell in Beirut

Superpowers issue joint appeal for Lebanese peace

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union and the United States have together called for a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called the superpower appeal, issued Thursday, important, but said the Soviets were disappointed it did not go further.

The statement "was the best we could come up with," Shevardnadze told reporters, indicating the Americans had opposed a more active stance. He did not elaborate.

The document was issued at the end of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's first visit to Moscow, during which he held talks with the Soviet foreign minister and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

As distributed by the Soviet news agency TASS, the joint statement urges all belligerents in Lebanon to cease hostilities, and supports a proposal from the Arab League that says a ceasefire should first be consolidated as a basis for national dialogue and reconciliation in Lebanon.

The United States and the Soviet Union "are prepared to provide good offices so that, jointly with other states, they may promote a political solution to the problem of Lebanon, taking into consideration the interests of all sides," the statement said.

The superpowers support "Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity," it said. Shevardnadze told a news conference at the end of Baker's two-day visit that the U.S.-Soviet statement was designed to "put an end to bloodshed in Lebanon," but indicated some disappointment at its wording.

"Of course, you just as we may have a feeling of dissatisfaction as concerns the content of this

statement, but that was the best we could come up with," Shevardnadze told reporters. But he added: "We also think the fact we issued a joint statement ... is a factor of no small importance."

The Soviet foreign minister said it was possible that sometime in the future the superpowers "would be able to come up with more efficient ways of exercising influence" on the situation in Lebanon.

Saudi appeal

Saudi Arabian newspapers Friday urged Lebanese antagonists to abide by an Arab League-sponsored ceasefire to help re-establish peace in Lebanon.

Commenting on the latest ceasefire declared Thursday, Al Madina said this had "aroused hope instead of despair in the hearts of many people on Arab and international levels."

"But this is not enough and the antagonists should move quickly to stabilise the ceasefire and cooperate fully with the Arab League."

It called on Lebanese leaders to respond positively to the deployment of Arab observers and implement other steps "if they are keen to resolve the crisis that threatens the very existence of their country."

About 320 ceasefire observers from six Arab states are due to deploy in Lebanon once the ceasefire takes hold.

Al Riyadh said: "The tragedy will not end until all Lebanese parties involved resort to reason and make use of Arab efforts to reestablish peace and security in Lebanon."

The paper urged the conflicting sides to "sit together and try to reconcile their own desires and those of the innocent who have been dragged into the dark tunnels."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain navy destroys mine

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain Thursday destroyed a mine from the Iran-Iraq war found drifting in its territorial waters, official sources said. The sources said Bahrain's naval forces spotted the mine floating 10 miles north of Sitra on the island's east coast. One Bahraini fisherman was killed and five were injured last January in an explosion apparently caused by their boat hitting a mine. His death brought the total killed by mines in the Gulf to at least 13. Western naval sources estimate up to 200 mines could still be near the Iranian and Iraqi coastlines, threatening shipping in the area for years to come.

Shevardnadze to visit Turkey in June

ANKARA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will pay an official visit to Turkey in June, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday. "The Soviets have proposed a June visit and we are trying to work out the most suitable dates," he said. Shevardnadze's visit, expected to take place since last year, would be a sign of improved relations between North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member Turkey and the Soviet Union, the official added. Turkey, guarding one third of NATO's borders with Warsaw Pact countries, agreed in March to lend the Soviet Union half a billion dollars to encourage Soviet importers to buy Turkish goods and to finance construction projects by Turkish firms.

Prince Charles visits Turkey mausoleum

ANKARA (R) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, laid a wreath at the mausoleum of modern Turkey's founder Friday during a one-day private visit to Ankara. "On my first visit to Turkey I salute the memory of the founder of a great nation," he wrote in a book at Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's austere hilltop mausoleum. The prince, who is travelling alone, was to meet President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, and visit Ankara's 3,000-year-old citadel dating from the Hittites.

Israeli army sacks colonel

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli colonel who ordered soldiers to break the arms and legs of Palestinian protesters has been discharged by chief of staff Dan Shomron, an army spokesman said Thursday. Shomron severely reprimanded Colonel Yehuda Meir, former commander of the Nablus district in the occupied West Bank, during a disciplinary hearing Tuesday and order he be dismissed, the spokesman said. Meir was charged with exceeding his authority by ordering soldiers to beat Arabs in the villages of Hawwarah and Beit in January 1988, the second month the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising. In Hawwarah, four officers and about 40 soldiers arrested 12 villagers, tied their hands and feet, shoved rags into their mouths and broke their arms and legs with clubs. They left the wounded Arabs in an orchard where they beat them, witnesses said. A military police investigation, prompted by a complaint from the International Committee of the Red Cross and a letter from an officer involved in the incident, found that Meir was responsible for ordering the beatings. Citizens Rights Movement Parliamentary Yossi Sarid expressed outrage that Meir was not court-martialed, while more junior soldiers often stood trial for less serious offences.

Somalia frees 6 more prisoners

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia said Thursday it had freed six more political prisoners jailed for helping rebels fight the government in northern provinces. A statement from President Mohammad Siad Barre's office said those released included prisoners jailed for life or serving jail terms of up to 30 years. It gave no details but most of the prisoners are known to be from the north of the country, where government forces fought pitched battles with rebels of the Somali National Movement last year. Somalia said in February it had freed more than 200 political prisoners.

Egypt denies Amnesty charge

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Thursday denied an Amnesty International report that security police had tortured political detainees. "There is absolutely no truth in the report. Torture of any kind does not exist in Egypt," said an Interior Ministry source. Amnesty International said Wednesday that thousands of detainees had in recent years been beaten with whips, burnt with cigarettes, given electric shocks and sexually abused. The London-based human rights watchdog urged Cairo in a 40-page report to tighten controls on treatment of political detainees and allow them swift appearances in courts if they complained of torture. In Egypt, the Interior Ministry source said, court had not proved any torture charges against police. He said opponents were given all their rights as political detainees and were allowed to appeal their detentions in court. The source said a number of extremists had been arrested under emergency laws, but only after having solid information that they were plotting terrorist acts.

Iran polls, referendum to coincide

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashami said Thursday that planned constitutional amendments would be presented for approval in a referendum to be held simultaneously with the presidential election. The official Islamic Republic News Agency, quoted Mohtashami as saying the Iranian people will be voting for or against the amendments "in the same polling booths set up for the presidential elections." President Ali Khamenei's second four-year term expires this year and elections for a new head of state are set for August. He is not eligible for a third term. The only candidate for the presidency declared so far is Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Shamir released from hospital

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was released from hospital Friday after two days of routine tests and will return to work Sunday to hold the weekly cabinet meeting, his office said. "Shamir returned home. He feels good. On Sunday he will already run the cabinet meeting," a spokeswoman said. She said Shamir, 73, had a routine check-up in hospital and doctors determined he was in good health. He only suffered from fatigue due to a overloaded schedule, she said.

Egypt may scrap \$2 billion U.S. tank production project

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt may scrap a \$2 billion plan to produce the U.S. M-1A1 battle tank as part of a far-reaching review of defence spending, military sources said. Cairo was considering switching to co-production of the Soviet T-72 tank with Iraq instead, they told Reuters in interviews during the week.

"The M-1A1 is one of the things under review by the new defence minister," said one of the sources, a foreign military observer. "All major projects are being closely scrutinised."

Egypt's Defence Ministry spokesman was not available for comment.

Egypt is the largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel.

The General Dynamics tank is a prestigious symbol of the close military ties that have developed between Cairo and Washington

over the past 10 years. It was a favourite project of Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala until the popular 59-year-old soldier was removed from his post as defence minister last month.

He was viewed as the second most influential personality in Egypt after President Hosni Mubarak.

The most vital part of Egypt's \$43 billion debt is \$4.5 billion owed for U.S. military equipment. Under U.S. law, all U.S. grants may cease if arrears on the debt extend beyond one year. The deadline ends in mid-July. The sources said Egypt's defence planners were short of more than \$200 million to match U.S. military aid for 1990-1.

Egypt's M-1A1 tank production line, they said, was already at least six months behind schedule.

Under the terms of an agreement with General Dynamics, the first 15 of 555 tanks are due to arrive for trials in 1991.

The \$2 billion would be drawn from U.S. military assistance, worth about \$1.5 billion a year.

Cairo must additionally find some \$500 million in hard cash and local currency to equip plant 300 — the factory designed to assemble M-1A1s and refurbish Egypt's existing M-60 tanks and M-113 armoured vehicles.

There would be cancellation fees if the M-1A1 was scrapped, but these would be minor compared to the overall savings. "If they cancelled now it wouldn't cost them much," said Jane's defence weekly military editor Chris Foss.

Some senior Egyptians have long had their doubts about the M-1A1, the sources said, believing it to be excessively costly in an area of peace with Israel.

One Egyptian source said Egypt was seriously studying possible collaboration with Iraq in building the T-72 tank.

The Young Muslim Women's Association in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan announces a course in

IKEBANA

Japanese flower arrangement on Saturday, May 13, 1989

The course will be taught by the Ohara School of Ikebana in Tokyo; beginners and advanced courses will be held at the Princess Sarvath College. Diplomas will be awarded upon the successful completion of the course.

For more information please contact: Princess Sarvath College, tel: 689482 Embassy of Japan, tel: 672487 Courses will begin on Saturday, May 13, 1989

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Arab council on children meets in Cairo this week

CAIRO (Petra) — The Arab Council for Childhood and Development meets in Cairo Wednesday under the chairmanship of Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz to work out the council's plan of action for the next three years. The council's plan of action will focus on projects designed to improve children wel-

fare and to place children's issues on top of priorities.

The Council's secretary general Mamdouh Jabr of Egypt, said the council works towards identifying children's present and future needs, given the fact that children constitute 45 per cent of the total Arab World population.

King: U.S. is serious

(Continued from page 1)

The Soviet side gave "an encouraging but not definite response" to that proposal, said one unidentified official quoted by Reuters.

Gerasimov said the proposed elections could not replace an international conference, and that there were questions about who would take part in the balloting.

Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories have rejected elections under Israeli rule.

"We stressed our idea of having a Middle East conference does not exclude any other steps, but we should act because there is bloodshed, people are dying, and it would be naive to think that the Palestinian people will cease their struggle tomorrow," Gerasimov said.

"In any case, there is room for further cooperation in this field," he said. "This topic is promising in terms of Soviet-American dialogue."

In a related development, Baker has told Israel it must address the rights of Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem to vote in the proposed elections, an Israeli foreign ministry official said Thursday.

In a letter to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens last week, Baker stressed the U.S. commitment to exchanging territory for peace and said interim arrangements on the occupied territories must be linked to talks on their final status.

He also urged Israel to accept international supervision of the elections, proposed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

19:30 Kuran
19:40 Programme review
19:45 Children programme
19:50 Educational programme
19:55 The Friends
20:00 Message from Iraq
20:05 A play by Shakespeare
20:10 Local programme
20:15 News in Arabic
20:20 Arabic series
20:25 Local programme
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Play continued
20:40 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Confessions
18:30 Des Chiffres et de Lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le 100 Heure du Procope
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural Phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Just the Ten of us
21:00 Allied Hits and presents
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Lonesome Dove

PRAYER TIMES

04:07 Fajr
05:35 Sunrise (Sunrise) Dubai
12:32 Dhuhur
16:12 Asr
19:28 Maghreb
20:56 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatfah. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624540
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 775261
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Salts Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A gradual rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 11/28
Aqaba 19/34
Deserts 13/33
Jordan Valley 15/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Al Disi 826660
Dr. Ahmad Al Daq 676049
Dr. Jamil Marouf 776049
Dr. Adel Dabboush 893644
Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 636672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRRID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mousou Hanna 985750
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63032
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 624412
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 818313/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642856
Alkhalel Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musafir Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 89161/175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
The Islamic, Abdali 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
6:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
6:55 Baghdad (RJ)
6:55 New Delhi (RJ)
10:10 Aqaba (RJ)
10:15 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:50 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

16:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
16:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
18:20 Athens (RJ)
18:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:35 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Baghdad (IA)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:45 Benghazi (LN)
17:25 Riyadh (SU)
19:55 Rome (AZ)
22:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
6:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:40 Tripoli (RJ)
12:40 New York (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:40 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:00 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Jordan (RJ)
18:15 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
18:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
22:15 Cairo (RJ)

11:20 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Baghdad (IA)
16:45 Kuwait (LN)
18:40 Riyadh (SU)
19:55 Damascus (AZ)

MARKET PRICES

Upfaller price in Jds per kg.
Apple 500 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Muhannar) 300 / 250
Beans 250 / 200
Broad beans 80 / 50
Cabbage 60 / 40
Carrots 120 / 90
Cauliflower 160 / 120
Cucumbers 50 / 40
Dates 500 / 450
Eggplant 100 / 50
Garlic 210 / 170
Lemon 460 / 400
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 70
Marrow (large) 50 / 50
Marrow (small) 180 / 120
Orange 280 / 200
Onion (dry) 70 / 50
Onion (green) 100 / 60
Peas 180 / 140
Pepper (big) 200 / 160
Pepper (small) 240 / 200
Tomatoes 110 / 70



Another way to promote Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 200 airline employees, members of the World Airlines Club Association (WACA), will be hosted in the country Saturday for a six-day tour around the Kingdom which is expected to be of considerable "promotional" significance to Jordan.

The trip, arranged by the Jordan Interline Club (JIC), a member of WACA, brings 221 airline employees from 18 different airlines and countries, people who could promote Jordan internationally, according to JIC executive committee member Ali Kiswani.

The tourists will have a chance to visit Amman, Jerash, Ajloun, Madaba, Mount Nebo, Main springs and Petra and will be treated by the Ministry of Tourism to an evening swim and dinner by the Dead Sea. They will also make a trip from the Jiza station aboard the Hijazi Railway steam train to Amman.

The JIC, which groups 135 members — employees of Royal Jordanian and foreign airlines operating in Jordan — aims to promote the country internationally through communications with various clubs, according to Kiswani.

WACA groups 123 interline clubs from all over the world and has its own year-round agenda for activities that aim to promote better understanding between interliners, Kiswani said.

Last year, a trip to Jordan by 120 members received the WACA "best trip" award for 1988, and Jordan is expected to be on next year's WACA agenda as well.

The "promotional" value of such a trip for Jordan lies in the fact that all 221 visitors work in the airline business.

"It is a matter of having the right people at the right place," said Munir Nassar, head of International Traders, the travel agency handling the trip to Jordan. "These people work for airlines and can therefore be good sales people for Jordan," he said. "When the person behind the counter says 'I've been there' you're half way through selling the tour," he explained.

In terms of foreign currency brought into the country, each of the tourists will spend between \$100 and \$200 during their stay here, on shopping, extra meals, and drinks, according to Nassar's estimation.

Egypt, Jordan discuss Gulf of Aqaba ecology

AQABA (Petra) — A scientific seminar on Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in the field of marine sciences began Friday at the Marine Science Station (MSS) in Aqaba with the participation of Agriculture Minister Dr. Yusef Badran and experts from Egypt, the United States, and Jordan.

Opening the seminar, Yarmouk University President Dr. Mohammad Hamdan called for Arab cooperation to solve marine environment problems and develop natural resources. He also explained the duties and the objectives of the MSS. They said that most world countries suffer from mass efforts to preserve marine resources and consequently provide food.

The three-day seminar will discuss a number of subjects that include environment problems in the Gulf of Aqaba and plans necessary to solve these pressing problems.

Dr. Badran and Dr. Hamdan earlier attended a meeting at the MSS. During the meeting, discussions focused on MSS achievements.

COOPERATION: Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday discussed with the governor of the Bank of England bilateral cooperation in the economic fields. Present were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taher Al Masri and the British ambassador in Amman. The prime minister also received Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Mohammad Al Fahd.

GULF AIR CONTEST ENDS: Gulf Air "Far East contest" has ended at Safeway International. The winner was Mr. Khalil Younis Abdul Salam Salameh. According to an announcement Thursday the winner will be allowed a return trip ticket for himself and a guest to Bangkok, courtesy of Gulf Air.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Botis and Munira Tumbayeh at the Housing Gallery.
- The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- An art exhibition by Helen Grant at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- An exhibition of ceramics and silk flowers entitled "Amman Embedded in the Heart" by Sana' Al Asir at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- Bani Hamida weaving exhibition at Abu Jaber Estate, Airport Highway.
- An exhibition of children's art at the Scientific Cultural Centre of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Aspects of this Age and the Demands of this Generation" by Dr. Abdullah 'Oweidat and Abdul Fattah Thouqan at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

Nsour inspects preparations for Independence Day festival

FUHAIS (J.T.) — Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour Thursday called at Fuhais and inspected preparations by youth groups and schools for their participation in a national festival to mark the Kingdom's Independence Day anniversary on May 25.

Nsour met with officials, school teachers and organisations involved in the preparation process and paid tribute to their efforts. His tour also took him to schools in neighbouring Mabes where he met with education officials.

Earlier the minister sent out a circular to various educational departments in the provinces calling on students to contribute to the repair work at schools damaged during last month's riots over price rises. Government school building and other public property were damaged or burnt during the riots.

According to reports in the local press Nsour asked pupils

across the Kingdom to give at least 10 fils each towards repairing the damage. Such contribution would serve as a symbolic participation on the part of students towards rebuilding their own institutions, the minister said.

This donation should not be considered as a tax but rather as a vivid symbol and a clear signal of faith that state property is the property of the people, the minister noted.

Centres formed to buy grain

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture expects to purchase cereals produced by local farmers during the present agricultural season at subsidised prices, as it had done in previous seasons, and has set up a committee to undertake the process of purchasing the grain in different regions.

The committee which met under the chairmanship of the ministry's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi Thursday said that up to 40,000 tonnes of wheat, 10,000 tonnes of barley and 3,000 tonnes of lentils would be bought this summer through a number of centres to be set up at Jweideh,

near Amman, Irbid, Ramtha Karak, Rabbeh and Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley.

At each centre there will be a committee representative to supervise the purchase operations and that the centres will open as of May 15.

Each farmer has to produce a certificate of origin for his crops supported by the local agricultural authorities before any transactions can be made, the committee noted.

The committee did not announce the price it would pay for the different types of cereals bought locally, but last year it

quoted a tonne of wheat at JD 144, a tonne of barley at JD 90 and a tonne of lentils at JD 180. This year's output is nearly half of that of 1988 when Lawzi put the total production of wheat at 80,000 tonnes and of barley at 25,000.

According to Ministry of Supply sources, Jordan, with a population growth rate of 3.8 per cent, is among the highest in the world and consumes about 450,000 tonnes of wheat a year. Various consignments of wheat from the United States, Saudi Arabia and other countries are normally bought to cover the shortage.

Public administration development project begins in September

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Institute of Public Administration will open a seminar in Aqaba on the role of the private sector in the country's development. The week long seminar organised in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will review 10 working papers dealing with such questions as investments, the implementation of government decisions on socio-economic projects and the private sector's activities in general.

The institute's director Abdullah Ulayyan said 30 participants from various departments in the public and private sectors will take part in the seminar which

will discuss matters related to financing projects, loans, government policies in development, incentives for the private sector's activities and the role of modern technology in promoting development.

The Institute of Public Administration is charged with the process of providing training to various department officials in Jordan and cooperating with the Civil Service Commission in streamlining work in government offices.

Ulayyan said that the institute's involvement in implementing a project for overhauling the civil service system in the country and

commencement of the project is scheduled for September 1, 1989.

In a statement published in the local press, Ulayyan said that the cost of preparing the project amounted to \$3 million of which \$1 million was provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The institute will receive the final version of the project in the coming two weeks to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval, Ulayyan noted. He said that the project entails the creation of a national committee at the Civil Service Commission to supervise the implementation of the project with the assistance of 12 foreign specialists and 48 Jordanian experts in public administration matters.

Ulayyan said that the implementation of the project will end in two years time.

Deaf, handicapped children's day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday observes the Deaf Child and Mentally Handicapped Children's Day with several activities to highlight the society's responsibility towards alleviating the predicament of the handicapped people in the Kingdom.

The department of special education at the Ministry of Social Development has prepared a comprehensive programme to be executed between May 12 and 20 to spread awareness among members of the public as to the need to help the handicapped through special education and rehabilitation programmes.

The department director said that special functions will be carried out by the various rehabilitation centres around the country entailing cultural, social and recreational activities in which schools and Ministry of Social Development-run rehabilitation centres will take part.

The programme, he said, also includes visits to the families of handicapped children by specialists to orient them on ways to deal with handicaps and to bring gifts to retarded children. The programme also entails trips for the handicapped to a number of areas organised by the ministry in cooperation with voluntary organisations and lectures on ways to deal with the handicapped children.

Meanwhile the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) announced that among its 636 societies around the country, at least 159 are specialised in areas for the rehabilitation of the handicapped and helping the aged.

This was revealed in a 1988 report presented by GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib to a GUVS general assembly meeting last week. The report outlined GUVS's activities and programmes in the past year and presented that 1988 closing accounts and financial estimates for 1989.

APS aims to enhance philosophy in Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Philosophical Society (APS), established in September 1988 with its headquarters in Amman is the newest addition to academic societies in the Arab World. This society aims at enhancing the status of philosophy in the Arab World, at promoting its teaching on the secondary and college levels in all Arab countries, and at advancing philosophical research in all areas of philosophy, the society's President Professor Ahmad Madi told the Jordan Times.

The society's executive committee is composed of nine members representing various Arab countries. The president of the society, Professor Madi, teaches

philosophy at the University of Jordan.

Membership in this society is open to any Arab who holds, at least, a masters degree in philosophy. The society is now in the process of organising itself, recruiting new members in all Arab countries, raising the necessary funds for its operations and embarking on an ambitious project, namely the publication of a first-rate philosophical journal, Dr. Madi said.

It is expected that the first publication that will be issued by the society will be its proceedings which will be published quarterly and will report on the various activities of the society and its members.

New chef for Jordan Inter-Continental

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental 36 Kitchen team is now headed by new executive chef, Helmut Tertinegg. He joins the hotel Jordan Inter-Continental Family having worked in Cairo as a last stop. Helmut had an extensive international culinary experience in Europe and the Middle East.

His arrival will enhance the quality of cuisine in all the hotel outlets in keeping the IHC high standard of food. After he completed his training in Austria (where he hails from) in 1964, he held various executive positions in Austria, Germany, Sweden, Spain and Middle East.



Her Majesty Queen Noor confers with Aqaba Regional Authority President Bassam Qaqish Thursday

Queen chairs committee meeting Changing Aqaba image

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The prospect of creating a special architectural character for the port city of Aqaba, projecting its economical, touristic and social and geographical status was discussed in detail at Basman Palace Thursday by an ad hoc committee chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The committee, set up some seven months ago is devoting its time to lay down designs to project the city's special character and to preserve its traditional architectural design.

The three hour meeting reviewed photographs and slides which depict Aqaba's historic, social and constructional developments and its present status as well as the prospect of introducing modernisation reflecting its traditional image and coping with the requirements of the modern age.

The question of giving the port city a special character by preserving the sand-coloured buildings and other features and at the same time promoting the different touristic economic activities and allowing for modernisation in various aspects were all taken up by the committee members, who considered proposals for employing locally produced materials like rock and timber for such projects.

The Queen, who addressed the committee meeting, laid stress on the need to preserve the characteristic nature of the traditional style in architecture which she said helps to preserve the cultural and historical background of the port city.

The touristic, social, environmental, economic and other features of the city should be preserved as the modernisation process continues, the Queen noted. She said that endeavours for enhancing the character of the city's tourist-attraction character should be maintained.

Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat echoed the Queen's ideas and said that building designs should reflect the Jordanian traditional architecture in general and that of Aqaba in particular.

The ministry of tourism is now encouraging domestic tourism to help Jordanians acquire good knowledge about their country and is in the process also of

promoting marketing Jordanian abroad to highlight the Kingdom's cultural background over the ages.

Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Bassam Qaqish said that the meeting was called to follow up the implementation of the Queen's directives with regard to the development of Aqaba buildings to preserve the region's historical and traditional character.

The process he said is being carried out in cooperation with engineers, and care is taken to employ locally produced materials in construction work. In addition ARA is now studying a code of construction which would require all parties concerned to take into account regulations for preserving the characteristic style in any building.

The committee which groups also a number of engineers representing the private and public sectors will hold periodic meetings to follow up discussions pertaining to the development of Aqaba.

Informatics seminar begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A semi-regional seminar on the Arab World's informatics and computer network will open at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Saturday.

Dr. Youssef Nuseir, director of the RSS's computer department said that experts in the field from Arab countries and Jordan will discuss working papers related to the subject. Altogether six working papers will be reviewed by the

participants who are expected to issue recommendations on the establishment of the network.

Delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, and Qatar in addition to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences, the World Health Organisation and the Arab Engineers Federation will attend the seminar.

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Thu	LH680 14:00 19:25

For a complete timetable call 801744. We will mail it immediately.



With their men away — working in the cities or abroad — many peasant women are widows in all but name. 'I dream that my husband will come back and find a job here,' says

Lesotho mother Mopota. 'Then he could help me bring up the children, share my fears and worries about them and do all the heavy jobs.'

Lesotho's widows of migration Out of our hands

This is the first of a three part series which deals with absent fathers, sexual inequalities and the need for big families. How these factors make it harder for women to control how many children they have. Three "tales" from Lesotho, Bangladesh and Bolivia show what happens when a father migrates, a son is born and a family is large. The first of the three articles deals with Lesotho.

By Charlotte Bauer

FOR 12 years Mopota Maseurane has lived alone with her three young children in a village a few kilometres outside Maseru, the capital of Lesotho. Every day she cooks, cleans the house and then, when her 'woman's chores' are finished, she starts the 'man's work'.

Mopota, like thousands of Basotho women, is a grass widow. Her husband works hundreds of kilometres away in the South African goldmines and she has become sole head of her family.

For 12 years she has seen him once a year, when he comes home on leave. She never knows when he might arrive, but she always knows when he will go again.

'I feel very much alone. I dream that one day my husband will find a job in Lesotho so that he can help me bring up the children, share my fears and worries about them and do all the heavy jobs.'

One of the poorest countries in the world, Lesotho has a population of 1.5 million people. A high infant mortality rate coupled with a short life-expectancy keeps its

population almost stagnant.

Of this number there are nearly 130,000 men who work away in South African mines. This figure excludes migrant workers who leave to work in factories or offices.

Consequently a large percentage of the country's women are in the same boat as Mopota. The main source of strength for such women is often the support they give and receive from each other. In Mopota's village, for example, they hold regular village meetings. These meetings were particularly important during the violent strike period of 1987 when there was no way of knowing whether your husband was alive until he came home on leave — or didn't.

Mopota shows her children pictures of their father and regales them with stories about him in an effort to keep his memory alive for them.

The loneliness — and the fear of infidelity — are, she says, one of the most painful emotional side-effects of her husband's absence. But there are other problems. Traditionally, a black woman in rural Lesotho defers absolutely to her husband's wishes.

So even though she may be keeping goats and cattle (as well

as a family) in a remote, virtually inaccessible mountain region she will have to consult him before making important decisions. If one of her children falls ill and needs urgent medical treatment the mother has to get permission from her husband before she sells a cow to raise money. As most of these remote communities are either semi-literate or illiterate this can mean waiting until he next comes home on annual leave.

Often the wife will not even know where her husband is. South Africa itself seems very far away. She seldom knows which mine he is working in or even what town.

One woman did not realise that her husband had died in a car crash on his way back to Johannesburg after his annual leave until she heard the news two years later by way of an erratic social grapevine.

Over 40 per cent of such 'grass widows' see no money from their husbands. This is often because the women are living too far away from towns for the men to bother to send money home. To collect the money the women would have to travel to the capital which often involves a journey of several hours by car — and is virtually impossible on foot.

Danish director tackles South America film

By Tim Pearce
Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Danish film director Bille August has turned from portraying poor immigrants in Denmark in his Oscar-winning 'Pelle the Conqueror' to the chaos and upheaval of the 1973 coup in Chile.

After his powerful portrayal of Swedish immigrants in Denmark in the 1890s, August is tackling 'The House of the Spirits,' the best-selling novel by Isabel Allende.

The book tells the story of a

family living through the turbulent times when Marxist Salvador Allende was elected president in Chile. The author's father was a cousin of Salvador Allende, who died in the coup which brought Augusto Pinochet to power.

'It's a wonderful family drama,' August told reporters in a recent interview. 'It's a story about a political situation, but more about the contrasts in the country, between man and woman, rich and poor, who's in charge and who's not.'

'That part of South America is a land of contrasts, very violent

but also very rich and beautiful.' August wrote the screenplay for 'House of the Spirits' himself. He has made several trips to Argentina, where shooting will start in the autumn, to look for locations and build sets.

Why move from familiar ground to this exotic foreign setting? 'I'd like to make Danish films again,' says August, 40, who studied cinematography at the Danish film school before spending several years working in Sweden.

'But you have to find where you are in your own universe. Where is the challenge for me? It's not to do a Pelle two, it's to do this house of the spirits. It's something I've wanted to do for many years.'

Bespectacled and soft-spoken, August talks with a quiet intensity of his approach to his work. He has been involved in the screenplay of almost all his films, a tradition in Scandinavian cinema, and considers this crucial.

'I can see the whole story from beginning to end. I know why characters do this at this precise moment, and this helps when discussing it with the actors,' he

says.

It also makes it easy to rewrite dialogue or scenes, he says. 'You know how the characters would react and behave.'

August believes a film has to be emotional and entertaining rather than intellectual. 'I become an expert on a subject. I try to transform that into emotional events an audience can participate in. If the audience can feel what's going on on the screen is a secret, personal experience, then the magic starts.'

In March 'Pelle' won an Oscar for best foreign film. Denmark's second in as many years. 'Babet's Feast' won the same award last year for director Gabriel Axel.

'Pelle' also won the Golden Palm at the Cannes film festival last year.

Chances

The film's success has won more backing for Denmark's national film school, a training ground that August rates among the world's best.

August speaks warmly of the school, set up in 1966 and funded by the state. 'If you're talented and have the energy, you can't

find better circumstances in the world to make a film. The director has control, you can make mistakes and still have a chance to try again,' he said.

One feature of the school is a subsidy system that encourages directors to make experimental or cultural films rather than go all out for commercial success.

Erik Crone, the film institute's managing director, is optimistic about the prospects for Danish cinema. 'These two Oscars have put us on the map. In that respect they have had an immense importance for all Danish and other Scandinavian films,' said Crone.

'You feel this at Berlin. Cannes, wherever you go. There's an increased interest in our other films,' and this gives talented newcomers a better chance of winning international recognition. Several Danish films will be shown at the Cannes film festival next month, although none in competition.

With only five million people and a language understood by few outsiders, Denmark has limited resources for film-making, though co-productions with other Nordic countries are common.

Pygmies first glance at America a pleasing one

By Michael Bezdek
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Ekomda pygmies had never been more than a few miles from their village in northern Zaire before appearing on stage at the Boston Opera House.

And they had never performed before anyone but their own people, and there they were dancing and singing their polyphonic music for four days of sold-out performances.

They came at the risk of being exploited as spectacle, of not being able to communicate their simplest wants if they got lost.

But as Africa oye, a performance of indigenous African song and dance by the pygmies and seven other African groups, moves to the next stop of a 10-week U.S. tour, the pygmies give good early reviews to the venture.

Mpata Lopoma and Botika Ekalaka, among five pygmies in the troupe, said so far they have liked the big-city buildings and the bustle. They didn't care much for some of the food, especially sandwiches, but they liked rice from Chinese restaurants, Danish pastry, fried chicken, and the bread.

But mostly what they have liked so far are the people. 'We like that they like our music,' Lopoma said.

The audience's appreciation was palpable as the Africans shook the shabby elegance of Boston opera house this past weekend, often prompting hoots of delight, rhythmic clapping and standing ovations.

The pygmies and other perfor-

mers — such as the drummers of Guinea and the Kanouri of Niger, who through circular breathing can play a horn for as long as they like without noticeably drawing a breath — often responded with smiles and waves of mutual appreciation.

Other Africa oye acts include Papa Wemba, one of Africa's most popular pop artists, and singer Kandia Kouyate, who is famous throughout Africa for her lyric voice in which she sings the centuries-old history of her Mande people.

The trip ran into some early difficulties. It was delayed in Dakar, Senegal, because of bloody ethnic riots. And the pende mask dancers of Northwest Zaire created a little stir in Senegal when, feeling uncomfortably cool, they built a fire outside their hotel.

Ekalaka said the pygmies were a bit unsettled by the long plane ride.

'We thought it would fall in the water,' he said through a translator familiar with their version of Belgian French.

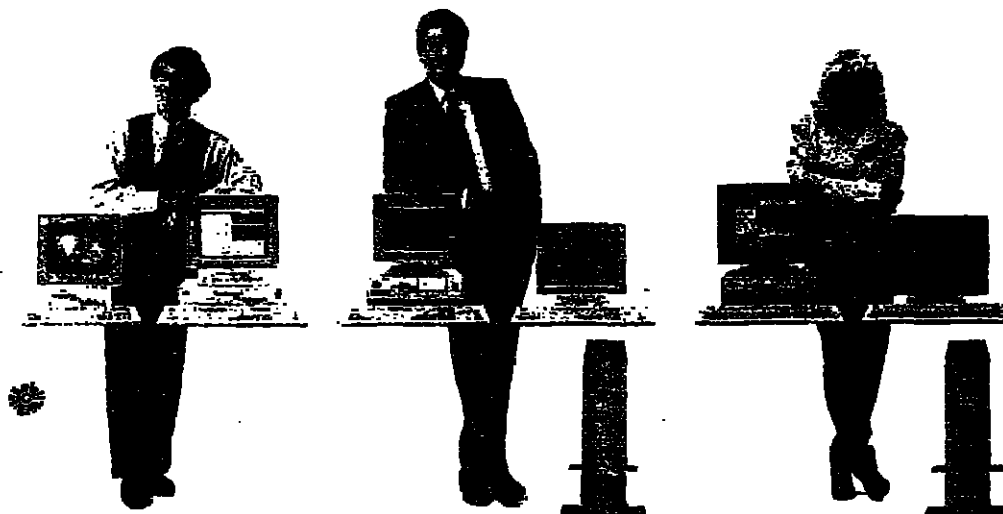
But once they landed, they were happy to be making music. The show is more than two years in the making, say its producers, who say they scoured remote regions of Africa for the masters of various traditional and more modern musical techniques. Among the 52 participants in nine groups are artists from Zaire, Senegal, Mali, Guinea and Niger.

Mel Howard, producer of the U.S. tour, says the show is a way of preserving music styles that are dying out as tribal customs are supplanted by the spread of Christianity and Islam.

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Iran allows foreign loans for big projects

Bankers remain highly distrustful

DUBAI (R) — Iran has cleared the way for cautious borrowing from abroad, but Gulf-based bankers said Thursday Tehran faced a hard task in restoring commercial bank confidence and attracting badly-needed foreign cash.

Iranian newspapers reported Wednesday that spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had given the go-ahead for foreign borrowing to finance major projects such as steel and energy. The bankers said they envisaged no rapid response from commercial banks until there were much firmer signs that Iran was moving back to political stability.

"There's been nothing very much to encourage them to lend over the last few months. I think people will want to wait and see," said a banker from a large European commercial bank. Hopes abroad that last August's ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war would lead to a reconstruction boom faded as Khomeini swung

Iran back to strict adherence to his Islamic ideals and rejected Western money and involvement in the country.

"If they had called for money last August, they would have got it. Now there has been too much uncertainty," said an economist at an Arab bank, who declined to be identified.

The billion-dollar packages needed to fund large capital projects such as petrochemicals, oil, gas, steel and power may not be as readily available, the bankers said.

Iran's High Council for Reconstruction, which debated the issue

for five months, drew up the guidelines.

These authorise new debt for important projects as long as they save or generate foreign currency, ensure transfers of technology and training, and do not demand repayments before the completed projects can repay with their own cash flow.

Borrowing also must not undermine the sovereignty or independence of the Islamic republic, the council said.

"That's a pretty demanding set of provisos," said a U.S. commercial banker.

A whole string of events has shattered foreign business confidence in Iran since August.

These range from Khomeini's death order on British author Salman Rushdie, to his previous outright rejection of foreign borrowing and dependence on Western business, to last week's call to kill Westerners in revenge for Palestinian deaths.

Meanwhile, they said, official export credit guarantee programmes of European nations could supply Iran with extra money and commercial banks might be willing to extend a few more credit lines for exporters to Iran.

Bankers said Britain, France and West Germany had not changed their official export credit lines to Tehran.

Iran has an external commercial debt estimated at up to \$6 billion by foreign economists. This is an internationally low 40 to 50 per cent of annual export earnings.

But some independent economists question the view that Iran is thereby a good credit risk. This is because it relies for at least 90 per cent of export earnings on oil, yet it also needs oil for its domestic industry and to service a rising barter trade. Take out oil, and the ratio soars to about six times export earnings.

Beginning rouble convertibility process

Moscow to hold first foreign currency auction this month

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union will auction foreign exchange for the first time later this month, the first step on a long road to making the rouble convertible, a top Soviet banker said in an interview published Thursday.

"We're clearing up final technical problems," Yuri Moskovsky, chairman of the board of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (Vneshekonombank), told Pravda. "I think it will take place in the near future, we would like it in May."

"With the help of this channel, enterprises which work only on the domestic market will have access to foreign currency," he added. "At first only Soviet enterprises and organisations will participate, then joint ventures, then foreign firms."

The auction, intended to distribute foreign exchange more evenly among Soviet enterprises, will for the first time set a market rate for the rouble, which economists say is grossly overvalued at its current official rate of around \$1.6.

Western tourists in Moscow say they are regularly offered black market rates of up to 10 roubles

to the dollar.

In an interview with the government newspaper Izvestia, V. Malkevich, chairman of the Soviet Chamber of Trade and Commerce, described the auction as "a first serious step in the creation of a convertible rouble."

Economists say that full convertibility — which would make the rouble freely exchangeable with currencies of Western industrialised countries — is necessary if the Soviet economy is to be fully integrated on world markets.

Malkevich, echoing remarks already voiced by other Soviet experts, said it is unlikely before the mid-1990s and will be reached by limited convertibility, initially into the currencies of its East European allies.

Malkevich also backed another idea, currently under discussion, of introducing a separate convertible currency in special economic zones — for example in Vyborg, on the Finnish border, or Nakhodka, in the Soviet far east.

Another article which appeared in Pravda earlier said that the rouble should be convertible but should not be floated until the economy is strong enough to take the consequences.

"The convertibility of the rouble is a necessary condition for the integration of our economy into world markets," economist

G. Matyukhin wrote.

Foreign trade operations, enterprises' new self-financing methods and joint business ventures would all benefit from a convertible rouble, he argued.

All Soviet enterprises, which switched to self-financing at the start of the year, were given the right to import and export directly from April 1.

But Matyukhin said, the Soviet economy was not yet ready for the convertible rouble.

Old management methods still existed in the economy despite Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme, and were incompatible with a floating currency.

Matyukhin added that Soviet Union had no experience of fluctuating bank rates and the state bank Gosbank had no infrastructure to enable it to deal with other countries' state banks on foreign exchange markets.

"So if rouble convertibility is introduced, there could be a real danger of the Soviet economy finding itself subject to the extreme influence of the moods of the international hard currency market," he said.

The question of rouble convertibility has become more urgent as the Soviet Union, eager for hard currency, opens up trade opportunities to the West.

Swiss government unveils plans to outlaw money-laundering

ZURICH (R) — The Swiss government has unveiled plans to outlaw money-laundering and prevent criminals abusing Swiss bank secrecy to dispose of their loot.

Justice Minister Arnold Koller said money-laundering should be made a crime punishable by up to five years in prison or a fine of one million Swiss francs (\$595,000).

"Switzerland does not need dirty money," he told a news conference in Bern. "The government wants to make a contribution to the fight against drug trafficking, money-laundering and organised crime."

Koller was outlining a draft law which will be put before parliament this year. It could become law in 1990.

Egypt raises interest rates

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's central bank Thursday raised domestic interest rates by two to three per cent in a move apparently designed to satisfy the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and pave the way for debt rescheduling. The decision, effective from Monday, increases the maximum rate offered by banks to savers to 16 per cent from 13 per cent. Interest rates on bank loans were also raised by two per cent with a maximum of 19 per cent. Egyptian officials have said the raise — a long standing demand by the IMF — were aimed at increasing savings. Egypt is engaged in painful negotiations with the IMF over economic reforms and a team from the international body is expected in Cairo shortly for talks on details of a letter of intent prepared by the government. Cairo, burdened with a \$43 billion foreign debt, hopes an agreement with the IMF would pave the way for rescheduling about \$4 billion due from July last year to the end of next month.

Philippines runs into financial straits

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines has fallen behind in payments to a group of 14 creditors and may be declared in default unless restructuring talks begin this month, the finance department says. Finance Under-Secretary Ernest Leung said arrears due to the international group, called the Paris Club, will amount to about \$150 million by the end of this month. About half the amount is owed to Japan, officials said. The government pays about \$50 million to its creditors every month in maturing principal and interest on its official and commercial loans, which totalled \$27.92 billion as of December. Leung said the growing arrears to the Paris Club may "lead to a default" unless restructuring talks begin this month. He said the Philippines will ask for a three-year restructuring arrangement with the Paris Club. Loans from the international group are usually restructured over an 18-month period.

Ireland hikes petrol prices

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish government has permitted petrol prices to rise by more than four per cent after a protracted war of words with multinational oil companies. Irish Energy Minister Ray Burke had imposed a petrol price freeze at the end of March after failing to persuade the companies to push prices down voluntarily. He accused them at the time of using "strong-arm tactics on a small nation." This prompted the oil firms on April 10 to halt temporarily the import of fresh petrol supplies, saying they were being forced to sell below cost. A few days later the companies agreed to lift the import ban, scrap promotional gifts for motorists, take more products from Ireland's state-owned Whitegate oil refinery and abide by the price freeze for the rest of April. Burke, who said his prime concern was controlling inflation, announced that petrol would now cost 284.2 Irish pence (\$4.26) a gallon (4.5 litres), one of the highest pump prices in Europe. More than 70 per cent of that represents government taxes.

Iraq buys 10,000 U.S. saloons

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh has said his ministry had signed a contract with General Motors of the United States to import 10,000 Chevrolet and Oldsmobile 1990 saloons. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Saleh as saying Iraq

had already imported 5,000 Chevrolet Celebrity models under a contract signed last year. Iraq said earlier this month it had signed deals with General Motors and Mercedes-Benz of West Germany for the production of trucks, pickups, buses and saloons.

Britain, China sign huge trade deal

LONDON (R) — Britain has unveiled a £3 billion (\$5 billion) six-year trade deal with China — the biggest between the two countries. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said agreements were signed over the past month between six Chinese provinces and municipalities and the 48 group, an organisation of British companies specialising in trade with China. Starting in 1990, British firms will help modernise Chinese manufacturing industries, launch joint ventures and pass on technical know-how, a CBI statement said. In return, China will send Britain consumer goods including sports equipment, raw materials and components. Official figures show Britain exported £412 million (\$684 million) of goods to China last year and imported £444 million (\$737 million) worth.

Committee to review ESCWA report

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The technical committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) meets in Baghdad Saturday to discuss the executive secretary general's report on its activities, to refer it to ESCWA's 15th ministerial session which will be held in Baghdad Wednesday. The commission will analyse the private sector projects as part of the economic and financial adjustment policies adopted by the commission's member states in addition to the commission's financial situation.

USSR to lend Egypt £200 million

CAIRO (R) — The Soviet Union will lend £200 million (\$340 million) to Egypt in an attempt to improve ties with its one-time ally. Soviet Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev has said. Details of the loan were still to be discussed, he said, but the money would be used to buy equipment and spare parts for Soviet-built iron and steel and power plants. Katushev said that he would review with Egyptian ministers the current trade volume of £600 million a year between the two countries. Egypt and the Soviet Union agreed last year to calculate sterling for trade transactions at a special exchange rate of three Egyptian pounds. The current bank exchange rate is 4.20 Egyptian pounds.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 10, 1989		Swiss franc		315.5	320.5
Central Bank official rates		French franc		83.2	84.3
		Japanese yen (for 100)		308.7	403.2
		Dutch guilder		249.6	252.4
		Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0			
Pound Sterling	895.5	906.3			
Deutsche mark	281.2	284.7			
				Swedish crown	83.2
				Italian lira (for 100)	38.6
				Belgian franc (for 10)	134.4
					136.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6615/25	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1865/75	Canadian dollar	
	1.9175/82	Deutsche mark	
	2.1615/22	Dutch guilders	
	1.7115/25	Swiss francs	
	40.1215	Belgian francs	
	6.4790/840	French francs	
	1397/1398	Italian lire	
	136.00/10	Japanese yen	
	6.4870/920	Swedish crowns	
	6.9340/90	Norwegian crowns	
	7.4610/60	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	379.50/380.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Shares closed at their highest level since January 31, buoyed by overseas investors and a 55 cent rise in News Corp. The All Ordinaries rose 21.9 to 1,537.1 by 0700 GMT.

TOKYO — Share prices closed with strong losses in thin trading, with investors unwilling to hold positions ahead of the weekend and release of the U.S. April producer price index. The Nikkei index fell 215.16 to 33,866.33.

HONG KONG — Cautious sentiment pushed share prices narrowly lower in sluggish trade. The Hang Seng index fell 6.67 to 3,278.43.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed generally easier but above the day's lows, with falls leading rises by 148 to 63. The Straits Times industrial index shed 2.25 points to 1,285.07.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered smartly in active trading for the new account after sentiment was boosted by lower Contango charges. Associated Cement rose 19 rupees to 326.

FRANKFURT — Shares fell across the board, undermined by continued worries over a higher dollar and domestic inflation and the desire to clear positions before the long Whitsun weekend. The DAX index fell 10.95 to 1,347.84.

ZURICH — Prices edged higher on low volume before the Whitsun weekend, with Wall Street's firmer close providing some support. The all-share index rose 1.2 to 1,012.9.

PARIS — Prices were slightly lower by midday, reversing earlier gains in thin pre-holiday trading.

LONDON — Share prices were sharply higher, posting a new post-crash intra-day high of 2,136.9 on the FTSE index, following a 45-point gain on Wall Street. At 1408 GMT the index was up 24.1 at 2,134.7 on a turnover of 391 million shares.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips slipped below their peaks but remained sharply higher in mid-morning on news that April producer prices rose less than expected. Stocks followed bonds, which rose sharply on the report. The Dow was up 38 at 2,421.

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Hansen set for 400th appearance for Liverpool in Wimbledon clash

LONDON (R) — Captain Alan Hansen is poised to make his 400th appearance for Liverpool Saturday when the English League champions bid to maintain their challenge for the title against Wimbledon.

Scottish international defender Hansen, injured for a long spell this season, has been a major influence on Liverpool's revival and late challenge to leaders Arsenal.

His experience could be invaluable against Wimbledon, who beat Liverpool in last season's Football Association (F.A.) Cup final, and keep alive their hopes of overhauling Arsenal.

Liverpool are five points behind the London club, but have one match in hand and meet Arsenal at home May 26 in what promises to be a championship showdown.

Arsenal, who will be seeking their fourth successive win when they play Derby at home Saturday, have 72 points from 35 matches. Liverpool have 67 from 34.

Third-placed Norwich travel to Luton, who are desperate to win to avoid relegation, but intend to show no mercy.

Luton will have the advantage of their synthetic surface, and Norwich, championship contenders for most of the season and

beaten F.A. Cup semifinalists, have no prizes left to play for. But Norwich winger Dale Gordon has promised they will be going flat out in an attempt to finish their successful season with a flourish.

"We have still got third place to play for — and that would mean a lot because the highest the club has finished before was fifth," Gordon said.

"On top of that our record on Luton's pitch has been good over the last two or three seasons. Personally, I've never found plastic pitches a problem. We've got the sort of side that like to knock it about, so it should suit us really."

Like Luton, Aston Villa, Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday and West Ham must also win to keep their hopes of beating relegation alive.

Villa take on Coventry at home, West Ham, after four successive wins, travel to Everton, and Wednesday meet Middlesbrough at Hillsborough. A defeat for Middlesbrough would almost certainly condemn them to the Second Division.

World Cup squad

Manager Bobby Robson guarded against all possibilities Friday when he named a 27-

strong squad of players for England's World Cup qualifying match against Poland and warm-up matches against Chile, Scotland and Denmark.

Robson's planning for the European qualifying Group Two clash with Poland June 3, the Rous Cup meetings with Chile and Scotland and friendly in Denmark has been upset by a congested domestic fixture list following the Hillsborough disaster April 15.

Champions Liverpool have several fixtures to complete and, as a result, their players — and those of league leaders and title rivals Arsenal — are available only for the matches against Poland and Denmark.

To compensate for their absence, Robson has recalled central defender Mark Wright and midfielder Trevor Steven, both discarded after England's failure at last year's European Championship finals, midfielder Michael Phelan and strikers Mick Harford and Tony Cottee.

These five have been added to the 22 who made up the squad for last month's 5-0 win over Albania, but are expected to be replaced when the six selected Liverpool and Arsenal players become available after the Rous Cup ties — defender Tony Adams, midfielders Steve McMahon and David Rocastle and forwards Alan Smith, John Barnes and Peter Beardsley.

Robson said: "I have not had a more complicated situation in all my time as England manager. The Liverpool lads are going to be leg weary. They are going to have a fairly heavy feast of football between now and when we reassemble for the Poland game."



Ruud Gullit

Gullit hopes to return Sunday

MILAN (R) — Dutch soccer star Ruud Gullit could play for European Cup finalists AC Milan Sunday for the first time since a cartilage operation three weeks ago.

Club sources said trainer Arrigo Sacchi would decide by Saturday whether to field Gullit, who had knee surgery April 21 two days after AC Milan thrashed Real Madrid 5-0 to reach the Champions' Cup final.

Gullit said he hoped to play at least part of Sunday's league game when third-placed AC Milan face Sampdoria, losing finalists to Barcelona in Wednesday's European Cup Winners' Cup.

"I hope to play at least one half," Gullit told reporters. The cartilage problem has capped a season of ups and downs for Gullit, who led the Netherlands to their European Championship triumph last year and who has reached his first European club final with Milan.

"Now the only way I can go is up," Gullit said.

Lendl, Becker reach German semifinals

HAMBURG (AP) — Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker, seeded to meet in the championship match, Friday advanced to the semi-finals of the German Open men's tennis tournament.

Lendl swept past Jonas Svensson of Sweden 6-2, 6-2, while Becker's quarterfinal opponent, Paolo Cane of Italy, defaulted because of a hamstring strain.

In Saturday's semifinals, Becker will play Horst Skoff of Austria, who beat Michael Westphal of West Germany 6-1, 6-3 in another quarterfinal match Friday.

Lendl will meet the winner of the match between American veteran Jimmy Connors and Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany.

Lendl is the top seed in the \$692,500 Nabisco Grand Prix

clay-court tournament and Becker is second. The seedings reflect their current world rankings.

"He is so pumped up after winning the tournament of champions, he is playing very well," said Lendl's coach Tony Roche. "He is really looking forward to the French Open."

Lendl swept through the New York tournament last week without dropping a set in five matches and won his fourth title of the year.

He has not dropped a set in his first three matches of the German open.

Svensson, ranked 21st in the world, upset Lendl in the quarterfinals of the French open last year. But the Swede had no chance against Lendl Friday.

Lendl lost his No. 1 world

ranking to Mats Wilander of Sweden after failing to win any of the four grand slam tournaments last year. But he returned to form after a shoulder operation and has regained the top ranking.

"The year has been good so far for me," Lendl said after dispatching Svensson in one hour and 18 minutes.

"I don't have trouble motivating myself, I like winning," Lendl said.

"My next goal is the French Open and then, of course, Wimbledon. I'd love to win Wimbledon, I'll do my best."

Wimbledon is the only grand slam tournament Lendl has never won.

"If I won Wimbledon and then dropped to 270 in (world) rankings at the end of the year, I'd be

happy," he said.

Becker has demonstrated a new-found confidence on clay in rolling through his first two matches here.

"To take over the No. 1 spot from Lendl, I have to play well on clay," said the West German.

Becker, 21, won back-to-back Wimbledon titles in 1985 and 1986 but has never won a tournament on clay. He has climbed back to the No. 2 rank after three years.

"I am more experienced now than three years ago," Becker said. "I have learned from my defeats. I have learned to be more patient, especially on clay."

"But I am not under pressure to replace Ivan at the top," Becker said. "It's the biggest and the most difficult step."

Johnson injured in fight

TORONTO (AP) — Ben Johnson, the central figure in a federal drug inquiry in Canada, sustained minor injuries in a fight after leaving a nightclub.

Johnson, the world record-holder in the 100-metre dash, was disqualified from the 1988 Olympics after testing positive for steroids.

Johnson had just left a nightclub early Thursday and was driving his mother's car about 1:45 a.m. when he slowed to allow a group of pedestrians to cross the street. As they were crossing, a man banged on Johnson's car, police said.

Police said that when Johnson got out of the car to challenge the man, the sprinter was punched in the face. They said another man then jumped on the hood of the car and kicked in the windshield, causing \$700 worth of damage.

Johnson chased a suspect and held him until police arrived, Sgt. David Donald said.

Johnson was treated in a hospital for a broken tooth and swollen lip and was released.

Desai Williams, also a member of Canada's Olympic track team, and a woman friend were in the car during the incident, but were not involved in the altercation, police said.

John Cesar, 24, was charged with mischief over \$1,000. Police were looking for the man they said assaulted Johnson.

Meanwhile, at the federal inquiry Thursday, Johnson's teammates said they could tell by his moods when he was on anabolic steroids.

Glenn Bogue, a former athlete's representative with the Canadian Track and Field Association, testified that Williams acted out of frustration and fear for Johnson's health when he talked about rampant cheating at the Sprinter's Toronto track club in 1985.

Bogue said Williams could tell when Johnson was on the muscle-building drugs.

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Tickets available for 5, 3, and 1 J.D. at the following places

- * Down Town — Izzeleh Stores
- * Jabal Amman — Rainbow Supermarket / 1st Circle
- * Shmeisani — Slight and Sound
- * Jabal Al-Husseini — Do Re Mi Music Center / Sukaina Circle
- * Jabal Al-Weibden — University Bookstore
- * Sports City — General Union of Voluntary Societies
- * Swellish — Jannat Beauty Salon
- * Swellish — Iatiki Bookshop

All proceeds will go to Voluntary Social Services.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K ♣K ♠AQ105 ♣J986
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1-0 Pass 2-4 Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—What's the problem? Surely with four-card support for partner's suit, a raise to three clubs is obvious. But if ever there was an exception to that rule, this hand is it. A nine-trick contract seems more feasible than an 11-trick one, and a rebid of two no trump will have the added benefit of protecting your tenaces from a lead through.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K983 ♣AJ72 ♠83 ♣762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1-0 Pass 2-4 Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's three hearts is a game try, and does not necessarily promise a real suit. Nevertheless, since you are going to game anyway you might as well offer a choice of contracts. Bid four hearts. Should partner have four hearts, the 4-4 fit could play better than the 5-4—he might be able to discard one of your losers on his fifth spade.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K983 ♣AJ72 ♠83 ♣762
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—Unless you're playing limit raises, you are not strong enough for a jump raise to three hearts, but too strong for a simple raise to two hearts. The solution is to make a temporizing bid of one spade, then

bid hearts at the three-level next. That secondary jump, if necessary, is considered invitational, not forcing.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠75 ♣762 ♠942 ♣AKJ107
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—If you consider only point count, your 8 points qualify for an invitational raise to two no trump. However, this hand rates to produce five tricks for partner, making it a much better hand than one with, say, some random collection of secondary high cards. Bid three no trump.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ1095 ♣86 ♠QJ3 ♣KJ7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1-0 Pass 2-4 Pass

What action do you take?
A.—You have two choices: a raise to three hearts, or a bid of two no trump. (A rebid of two spades would show at least a six-card suit and less outside strength.) With tenaces and soft values, we feel the latter bid is more descriptive.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q753 ♣J82 ♠Q9652 ♣4
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
A.—With your unbalanced hand, you would prefer a suit contract if one was available. Bid three clubs, a request for partner to show a four-card major. If he bids spades, raise to game. Over anything else, settle for three no trump.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

There is a lot going on behind the scenes. Romantic adventure mingles with fun and games. A culinary creation, music and dancing, plus moonlight, are recommended.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A misunderstanding is swept aside and finally becomes a dead issue. Details on an important decision are revealed. Plan a vacation.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) A repair project can get you in over your head. Seek out an expert before you start. Be with beautiful people tonight, but set a curfew.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You resolve a family matter through discussion. The financial pie is cut into too many pieces. Consolidate your bills.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) It is a good shopping day, but hasty action may deprive you of looking and comparing. Bargaining will solve cash flow problem.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are lighthearted, funny, witty and entertaining. All that is left is to make a renewed effort to curb bad habits.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Avoid talking like an expert, unless you are one. Show your best side to your mate. Focus on sensuality, glamour and entertainment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The day's tempo slurs and sags until afternoon. After that, expect some

fun moments as the action picks up. Do your own thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You triumph, privately, when a new idea solves an annoying intellectual problem. Your powers of analysis and communications are great.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You receive a surprise — everyone is ready on time. It is a great day for impulsive adventure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Today's scenario features personal ambition, desires, sensuality and style. Push aside inhibitions and be unconventional.

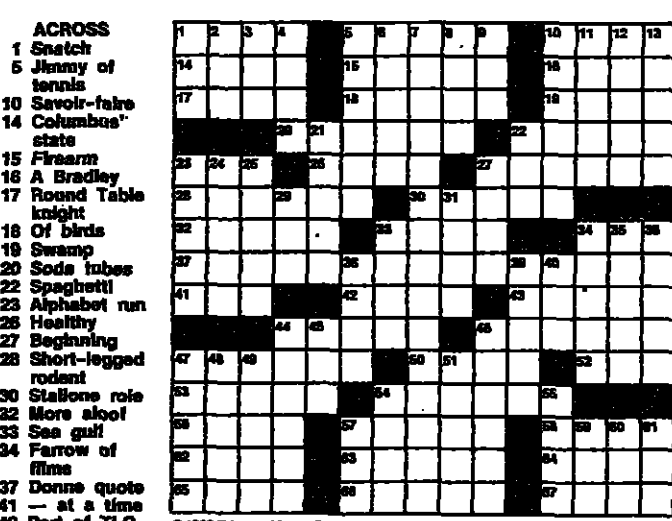
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A laid-back morning move along into an energetic afternoon. Hopespan activities will get the best results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) The day's activities may falter if schedules must be met. You consider a change of environment. Personal property is a concern.

If Your Child Is Born Today He or she will be visionary, restrained, patient and kind. Intellectual abilities will be influenced by an ability to analyze and see into the future. Expect your child to be able to use fantasy in a creative way and to apply talents to worthwhile endeavors.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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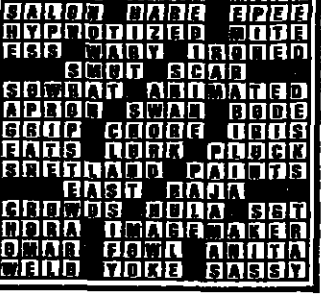
THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flagler



ACROSS
1 Sketch
5 Jimmy of tennis
10 Savoir-faire
14 Columbus' state
15 Firearm
16 A Bradley
17 Round Table knight
18 Of birds
19 Swamp
20 Soda tubes
22 Spaghetti
23 Alphabet run
26 Healthy
27 Beginning
28 Short-legged rodent
30 Stallone role
32 More about
33 Sea gull
34 Farrow of films
37 Dense quote
41 — at a time
42 Part of TLC
43 An O'Neil
44 New Zealand
46 Photo taker
47 Planet
50 Heavy shoe
52 Itch
53 Commerce
54 — in (interupts)
56 Footnote abbr.
57 Ice cream
58 desert
59 Unwritten
62 Droop lazily
63 Take — (judo)
64 Stars stupidity
65 Genetic
66 Talking bird
67 Paris airport

DOWN
1 Sailor
2 Gr. letter
3 Ozon
4 Head man
5 Turk
6 mountain
7 Song from "Fiddler On The Roof"
8 Two bird
9 Rep.'s counterpart
10 Love apple
11 Wrong
12 — blanch
13 Pay for
14 Brier
15 Plea for
16 Kind of acid
17 Rasher strip
18 Felony
19 Alt. prod.
20 — culpa
21 — composer
22 Buddy: Br.
23 Hardon
24 Madison Ave.
25 Buckster
26 Sacred image
27 Phase
28 On the —
29 Snuff
30 Exile
31 "The flower
32 " —"
33 Frame part
34 Pergola
35 Evening dress
36 Zodiac sign
37 Utah's state
38 "The flower
39 Dull sound
40 Certain value
41 Hooper
42 Pie in the —

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"The surgeon general was here today."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LISKY

NOROH

YORCAN

MUBHEL

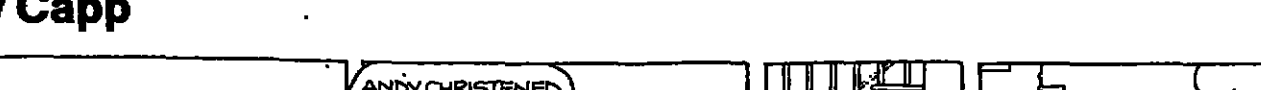
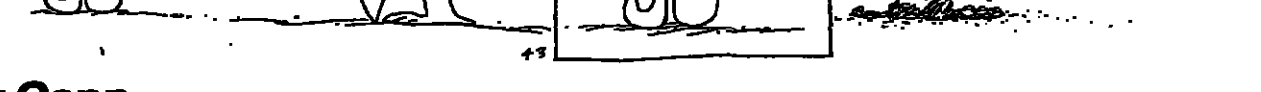
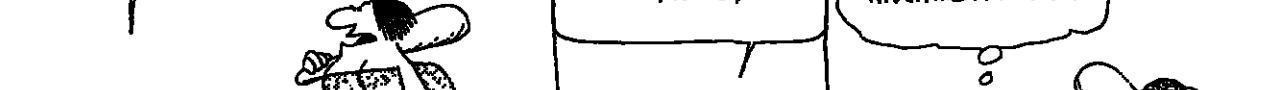
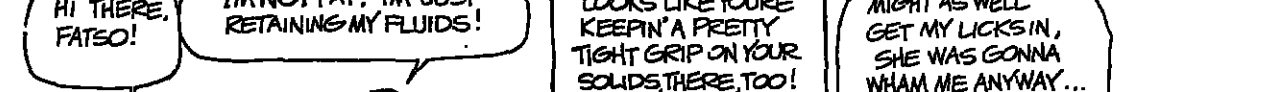
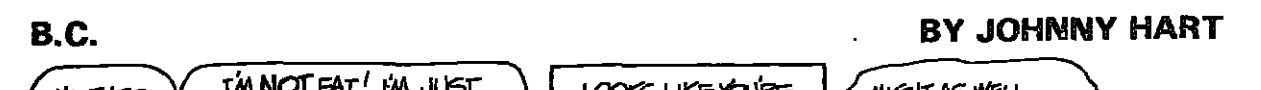
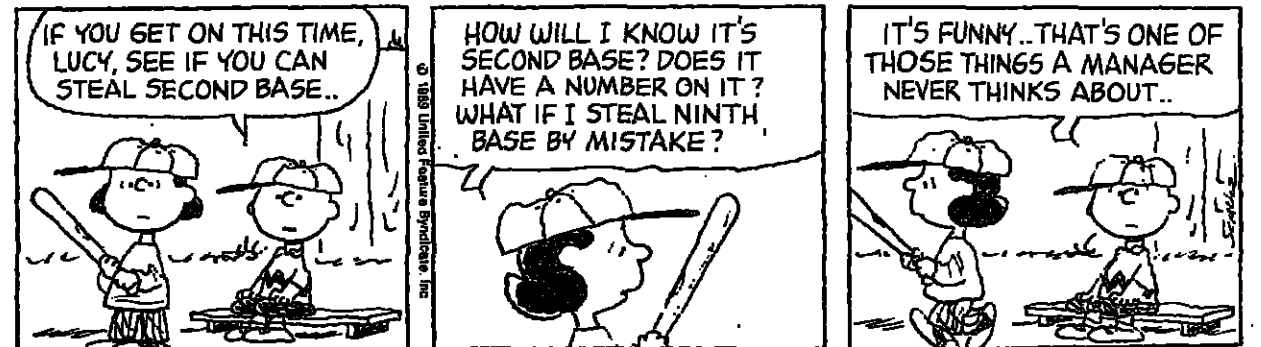
IF YOU WANT TO SUCCEED AS A VIOLINIST, THIS IS HOW YOU HAVE TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR MUSIC...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

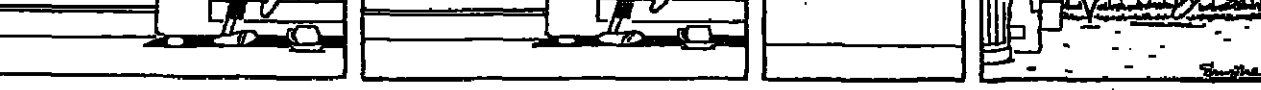
Print answer here: UP TO (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: HOIST PARTY BUTTON DETACH
Answer: He aimed to please, but he was this — A BAD SHOT

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Huge rally in Yerevan; clashes in Turkmenia

MOSCOW (R) — Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in the Armenian capital of Yerevan to make fresh demands for border changes in the Soviet Transcaucasus region, an Armenian journalist said Friday.

Soviet newspapers also reported clashes in the southern Republic of Turkmenia between police and young people shouting nationalist slogans and complaining about high-priced goods and services in private cooperatives.

A journalist at the Armenpress news agency in Yerevan said up to 400,000 people had gathered in a central square Thursday to demand the transfer to Armenia of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

He said protesters called for a debate on the issue in both the Armenian Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies, the revamped Soviet parliament meeting for the first time since the transfer of power.

Participants at the meeting, held with official permission, also repeated demands for the release of 14 members of the banned Karabakh Committee, which has led a campaign to secure the return of Nagorno-Karabakh from neighbouring Azerbaijan.

The 14 were detained last December at the height of months of tension over the territory in which 91 people were killed in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The meeting was the second in less than a week in Yerevan connected with Nagorno-Karabakh as Armenians appeared to be growing increasingly impatient with a Kremlin-appointed committee appointed in January to run the territory.

Some reports said Thursday's meeting heard calls for the resignation of Arkady Volsky, the committee's chairman.

Nagorno-Karabakh was reported calm Friday two days after armoured vehicles were deployed there to deal with renewed disturbances last week which left seven people injured.

Almost all factories in the area have been on strike since May 3 and an overnight curfew is in force.

Residents in the territory, populated mainly by Armenians but run by Azerbaijan since 1923, have been demanding in recent

days and end to Azerbaijani construction projects and contacts with the Azerbaijani leadership.

In Turkmenia, on the border with Iran, the Communist Party daily Pravda said 15 policemen were injured in clashes with young people Tuesday in the oil-producing town of Nebit-Dag.

Pravda said demonstrators set fire to 19 shops, damaged six fire engines attending calls and buried paving stones at police at the end of a public holiday commemorating the Nazi surrender in World War II.

It described the demonstrators as hooligans dissatisfied with the quality of cooperatives — private businesses providing goods often in short supply.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, daily of the Young Communist League, said demonstrators were shouting nationalist slogans and denouncing public institutions.

It said much of the anger was directed at Armenians and suggested it was because they ran large numbers of market stalls.

On May Day, about 100 young people were detained after rioting in Ashkhabad, capital of Turkmenia, also linked to complaints about high prices and poor quality offered by cooperatives.



A tiny vessel carrying 34 Vietnamese refugees arrives in Hong Kong harbour after a 60-day voyage. More than 500 'boat people' arrived in Hong Kong over the weekend swelling the overcrowded Vietnamese refugee population to 31,000.

Vietnam calls on its people not to flee the country

BANGKOK (AP) — A Vietnamese radio broadcast has urged citizens not to flee the country by boat, warning that they face increasingly vicious piracy and countries no longer willing to give them refuge.

"Our people should not leave the country illegally since it would be a crime for themselves, and causing difficulties in relations between our country and neighbouring states," the domestic Radio Hanoi said Wednesday.

A text of the broadcast was seen in Bangkok Friday.

An estimated 1.5 million or more Vietnamese have fled their country seeking new homes in the West since the communists defeated the U.S.-backed government in South Vietnam in 1975. The number to other Asian nations, and Hong Kong has increased dramatically in recent months, and governments have repeatedly demanded that Vietnam take steps to curb it.

Radio Hanoi said, "we already have documents that reflect the generous policy of our party and state to respect civil liberties, and at the same time reflect the strictness of the law against those who deliberately violate promulgated regulations."

It said two government decrees, in 1979 and last February, allow people to resettle in foreign countries through legal channels or to go abroad for short trips to see families or for personal business.

The broadcast gave graphic details from media accounts of rape, abduction and murder by Thai pirates in the Gulf of Thailand and the South China Sea.

"Armed with guns and other weapons, such as daggers, swords, grappling hooks and so forth, they ply their trade in unpatrolled international waters," it warned.

The radio told citizens that countries grown weary of the boat people are trying to repel them and deny them any opportunity to resettle in Western nations. It noted that Hong Kong last June and the ASEAN mem-

bers in March stopped resettlement and said there was no option for the migrants but to return to Vietnam.

ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, joins Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Singapore.

The Thai government's tough policy "has proved to be a great boon to the pirates," the broadcast said.

Figures compiled by the United Nations' refugee agency show a dramatic increase in violent attacks on boat people. More than 600 people were killed or left missing and presumed dead in 1988 and the first three months of this year.

Charge against China

Vietnam's Official Communist Party newspaper Friday charged that in talks this week in Beijing, China reneged on a pledge to normalise relations with Vietnam if Vietnam withdraws from Cambodia.

His life. Her constant nagging depresses him, affecting his love life and his work as an attorney.

"I love her but I just wish she'd disappear," Allen's character Sheldon says in the film.

Sheldon's secret wish his granted when, at a magic show, she disappears into thin air while inside a trick container.

Sheldon loses all his worries and becomes the perfect lover to his girlfriend Lisa, played by Allen's off-screen companion

"New York Stories" begins with Martin Scorsese's "Life Lessons," a tale of tortured love between New York artist Lionel Dobbie (Nick Nolte) and

his young apprentice Paulette, played by Rosanna Arquette.

The film is officially based on the diaries of Russian author Dostoyevsky's one-time mistress about her relationship with the writer. But Nolte hinted at a different motive at a Cannes news conference.

"I know it's got something to do with Martin (Scorsese) but I won't go any further," Nolte said.

The final film, "Life Without Zoe," is a family affair for director Francis Ford Coppola, written by Coppola and his daughter Sofia. The film also stars his baby daughter and has a small part for his father Carmine, who also helped with the music.

Filmed around some of New York's best known spots like

Ito rejects premiership, Tokyo stymied

TOKYO (R) — Veteran Japanese politician Masayoshi Ito, the leading candidate for Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's job, formally declined the offer Friday.

But officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said they would meet him again Saturday to continue the search for a new party leader and premier.

In talks with LDP Secretary-General Shintaro Abe, 75-year-old Ito cited health problems for refusing the post, deputy Secretary-General Ryutaro Hashimoto said.

"Mr. Ito told Abe and other leaders he made the decision not to accept the offer after thoroughly thinking it out," Hashimoto told a news conference.

"But this is not our final conclusion," Hashimoto said, in disclosing that party leaders would be meeting Ito again.

Ito, a former foreign minister who served briefly as acting premier in 1980 after the death of Masayoshi Ohira, told the meeting he faced strong opposition to his plan to do away with factions and money politics within the party.

Takeshita, who has announced he will step down by the end of May over the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal, has only two weeks left to find a successor.

The Recruit Telecommunications and Publishing firm handed out about 10 billion yen (\$75 million) in pre-listed shares, political contributions and other donations to dozens of

politicians, civil servants and businessmen to advance its business.

Public prosecutors have arrested 13 businessmen and civil servants and questioned one senior politician. They have determined that some of the handouts were bribes, according to indictment documents.

"Who will be our next saviour?" asked one LDP official in reply to a question about who may be next in line.

"Who would want to take over the job from somebody who just left a big mess?" said Hideo Ueda, an LDP member of parliament and a leader of a group that called for Takeshita's resignation.

"The top party leaders should have all resigned en

masse to prevent this," he said.

Faction leaders, the actual powerbrokers in the pro-American, business-oriented LDP, are usually eager candidates to assume Japan's top government post.

But the current leaders, including Secretary-General Abe and former Finance Minister Kijichi Miyazawa, have all been implicated in the Recruit scandal, leaving only Ito and some minor players in the limelight.

Press reports have suggested as possibilities chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda, former International Trade and Industry Minister Toshio Komoto, former Lower House Speaker Michita Sakata and former Deputy Premier Shin Kanemaru.

De Klerk rejects rule of majority, minority

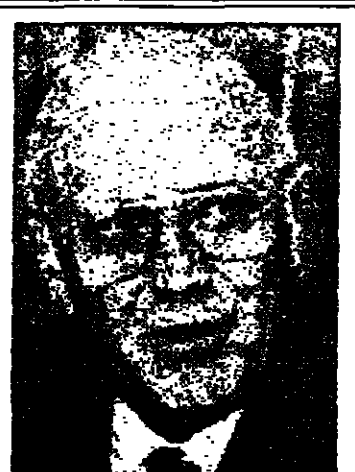
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — National Party leader F.W. de Klerk, expected to become the next president, said Friday he seeks a "drastically changed" political system in which neither the white minority nor the black majority can dominate.

In his most detailed policy speech since becoming party leader Feb. 2, de Klerk told parliament that establishment of a one-person, one-vote system would lead to black majority rule, which he termed "totally unacceptable."

But excluding blacks from decision-making, as advocated by the far-right Conservative Party (CP), "would ultimately lead to conflict and revolution that would destroy the very security and freedom of whites which the CP claims to be protecting," de Klerk said.

He said the National Party sought a system in which decisions were made by consensus. Disputes "should be settled by a fair referee," he said, without elaborating.

"White security can never be built on injustice toward others," he said. "The present situation



F.W. de Klerk

cannot last indefinitely. Things will have to change drastically and quickly."

De Klerk, 53, became party leader when the post was vacated by President P.W. Botha, who suffered a stroke in January. Botha, head of government since 1978, plans to retire after a general election Sept. 6, and de Klerk, the education minister, is virtually assured of succeeding him.

The National Party is expected to retain its overwhelming majority in the dominant white chamber of parliament despite challenges from the Conservative Party and the anti-apartheid Democratic Party.

"The Conservative Party stands for a minority government in a South Africa that will, by their own admission, in perpetuity be populated by a majority of people of colour. It is unfair and does not pass the test of justice," de Klerk said.

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"White security can never be built on injustice toward others," he said. "The present situation

Students to pursue anti-Roh campaign

TAEJON, South Korea (AP) — Radical student leaders vowed Friday to continue a drive to oust President Roh Tae-Woo in blood on placards, according to Yonhap, the South Korean News Agency.

Yonhap said 7,000 riot police were positioned near campuses and along main thoroughfares in Kwangju, about 280 kilometres south of Seoul.

South Korea has been hit by a wave of violent protests and labour strikes in recent months as radical groups have tried to weaken the government. But the radicals are not seen as a serious threat to the government despite their violent tactics.

The Student leaders in Taejon, about 140 kilometres south of Seoul, called for the expulsion of the approximately 43,000 U.S. troops based in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty. They charged the United States and the Roh government were imposing colonial rule on the country.

Other speakers charged that the United States was keeping troops in South Korea to block reunification with communist North Korea. They called for immediate reunification with the north.

"Let's inflict an irrevocable defeat on U.S. imperialism and advance the unification of our fatherland," said student leader Im Chong-Suk. "We pledge to fight for the withdrawal of U.S. troops."

Police have denied the charges and Roh has ordered an investigation into the case. About 30 students visited the hospital mor-

gue Friday where Lee's body lay, cut their fingers and wrote "Punish Roh Tae-Woo" in blood on placards, according to Yonhap, the South Korean News Agency.

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China Muslims protest 'Sexual Customs'

BEIJING (agencies) — About 2,500 Chinese Muslims chanting "Punish China's Rushdie" marched through Beijing Friday demanding that two editors be imprisoned for publishing a book on the sexual habits of Muslims.

"These men must be jailed," said Li Jing, a Uighur Turk from the Central Academy of Nationalities and a leader of the protest. "If they disappeared from the face of the earth, we would be happy."

The protest came a day after Iranian President Ali Khamenei told a news conference in Beijing that Iran still demands the execution of British author Salman Rushdie, who is accused of blaspheming Islam in his novel "The

Satanic Verses."

In an unusually fast report, Beijing's afternoon newspaper, the Beijing Evening News, reported the demonstration. It said the book had been banned in Beijing "because it has hurt the unity of China's minorities."

"The City Communist Party committee and city government clearly stated that this book must be swiftly suppressed," the newspaper said.

The marchers said their unprecedented demonstration had no connection with the wave of pro-democracy student demonstrations which have repeatedly brought Beijing's streets to a standstill over the past month. They banded a petition to officials of the Chinese parliament demanding a ban on the book, "Sexual Customs," and punishment for the publisher, the Shanghai Culture publishing house, and its editor Gao Gupin.

"This book is worse than 'The Satanic Verses'. We will not have our religion insulted," said a marcher.

Students said the Chinese book included articles on the sexual and marriage customs of Chinese Muslims containing derogatory references to the Koran and many errors.

"We must defend our faith when it is under attack," said an Uzbek from west China's predominantly Muslim Xinjiang region. "Most of us agree with

Iran's death sentence on Rushdie, but this (the Chinese book) is quite a separate case. This should be handled under the law."

The book in question is a compilation of essays on the sexual tastes of people around the world.

The section on Islam contends that the purpose of a pilgrimage to Mecca is to engage in bestiality. It said the domes and towers of mosques symbolise human sexual parts.

The book's editors are Han Chinese, the main ethnic group in China, comprising more than 90 per cent of the population. They are apparently teachers from Shanxi province, but published the book under pen names.

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Criticism greets new British secrets act

LONDON (AP) — Britain's new official secrets act got the royal seal of approval Thursday while critics denounced it as a government assault on the public's right to know.

The new act replaces the 1911 law that made it a criminal offence to disclose any official information without authorisation. Both continue to spark furious debate over banning reporting of British government activities, new and old, in all forms.

The celebrated novel "Spycatcher," the memoirs of retired intelligence agent Peter Wright, only recently was allowed into Britain after a two-and-a-half-year lawsuit against the govern-

ment prevailed. On Monday, however, three British newspapers which published "Spycatcher" excerpts in 1987 were fined \$83,500 for breaking an injunction against it.

While the new law retains the lifetime gag on members of the MI5 and MI6 intelligence agencies, which kept "Spycatcher" out of Britain for years and continues to prevent its publication there, it is far more concise than the 1911 act.

The original official Secrets Act was passed during a German spy scare and contained 2,000 ways to prosecute someone for whispering any government fact from civil service's tea intake to

the fertilizer applied to Buckingham Palace's flowerbeds.

The new act outlaws disclosure of government information in six areas covering defence, the security services, crime prevention and detection, and international relations.

However, the law continues to shield the intelligence services from parliamentary scrutiny and lists as automatic offences the leaking or publicising of security services bugging, telephone tapping and mail interception.

Otherwise, it requires the government to prove in court that unauthorised disclosures made by journalists or the 800,000 civil servants, diplomats and defence

industry workers who have taken an official secrets act oath, actually damaged a branch of government.

The government says that by shifting the burden of proof to the prosecution, it has enhanced civil liberties. It also says the new law is an improvement because the receiver of unauthorised information is no longer liable to prosecution.

However, critics say the new law is flawed. It denies officials who leak information about improper or questionable government conduct — so-called whistle-blowers — the legal defence of saying that they acted in the public interest.

Column

Lost coffin goes around the world

SYDNEY (R) — One thousand relatives and friends turned up for Jag Mohan Singh's funeral in Fiji but the body had been sent on a journey half way round the world by mistake, embarrassed airline officials said Friday. After Fiji-born Singh, 60, died in Sydney April 13 his family arranged for Australia's national carrier Qantas to fly his body home for a traditional funeral. But when the relatives and friends turned up for the last rites, they were told the ceremony could not go ahead because the body was missing, said the dead man's son, Hamendra Singh. Cargo handlers at Fiji's Nadi International Airport had failed to find the coffin which was stacked beneath cartons of fresh vegetables on the Qantas flight. The plane flew on to Tahiti and then to Los Angeles where the coffin was put in the airport warehouse. Hamendra said the coffin finally arrived in Fiji three days too late for the funeral under Brahmin religious custom and the remains were cremated.

City builds car park for prostitutes, clients

THE HAGUE (R) — The Dutch city of Utrecht has built a specially secluded car park for prostitutes and their clients. The car park, which cost \$18,000, has nine places for cars and a few for bicycles and motorcycles. Each space is screened off on three sides for privacy, according to a city spokesman. City officials decided to build the car park when prostitutes in an industrial zone found privacy scarce as firms increasingly put up fencing to keep them off the premises. "The women and their customers started moving into residential areas and many people complained," spokesman Pieter Huynink said. "So the city council decided to see to it that they got a special area that was not too near residential neighbourhoods." Prostitution is legal in specially zoned areas in most Dutch cities.

Robbers robbed by burglary victim

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